

Message Text

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47

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 COME-00 RSR-01 /060 W

----- 029069

R 251355 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8312

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4673

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ESTC, ETEL, UR, US

SUBJ: U. S. EARTH STATION SUBSYSTEMS

EXCON

FOR COMMERCE

REF: STATE 74642

1. EMBOFF SPOKE RECENTLY WITH VLADIMIR MINASHIN, CHIEF, SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS ADMINISTRATION, USSR MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, ABOUT INTENDED END- USE OF ADDITIONAL SPACE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT BEING ORDERED FROM ITT (REFTEL). DURING MEETING, MINASHIN ALSO PRODUCED CORRESPONDENCE FROM ITT REQUESTING CLARIFICATION FROM MINISTRY ON END USE OF THIS APPARENTLY " DUPLICATIVE" EQUIPMENT.

2. MINASHIN STATED TO EMBOFF THAT AS MINISTRY HAD INFORMED ITT, SOVIETS WISHED TO PURCHASE THIS ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING THE 12- CHANNEL SPADE EQUIPMENT, TO GIVE THEM POSSIBILITY AT LATER TIME OF EXPANDING " HOT LINE" COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW. HE AGREED THAT THERE WERE NO SPECIFIC PLANS AT THIS TIME FOR SUCH EXPANDED COMMUNICATIONS, BUT INDICATED SUCH EXPANSION WOULD BE DESIRABLE AND COULD BE EXPECTED.

3. MINASHIN' S DIRECT STATEMENT THAT ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT
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BEING SOUGHT TO PROVIDE FOR EXPANDED HOT- LINE COMMUNICATIONS AT LATER DATE LEAVES UNRESOLVED QUESTION OF WHETHER INTELSAT USE IS REAL SOVIET INTENTION. WE BELIEVE FURTHER PROBING OF SUBJECT WITH HIM HERE WOULD BE FRUITLESS AND POSSIBLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. PERHAPS EFFORTS TO EXPLORE SUBJECT WILL BE MORE SUCCESSFUL IN WASHINGTON DURING FORTHCOMING VISIT OF SOVIET DELEGATION (PARA 3 REFTEL).
DUBS

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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